

Open-Esoteric Digital Art: A Hidden Manifesto

Introduction (on Digital Art)

The contemporary internet and digital world are a quilt of complex scapes of software, spaces, and tools that are free, paywalled—or turn the user themselves into the product (free, or paywalled). No matter what anyone says, this is obviously the most exciting and interesting art gallery in the 21st century. Digital Art reverberates inside these chambers and caverns of (in)human design, curated intentionally or otherwise by individuals, businesses, intelligence agencies, algorithms, mistakes, and deliberate naivety. Digital Art disturbs and liberates itself from any context, as it is appropriated by the loneliest and most social members of not just the youth, but gradually the entire breadth of the living. In response to observing these qualities, and the state of the internet, we propose Open-Esoteric Digital Art, a framework to inform the conscious creation of Digital Art.

Open-Esoteric Digital Art should:

- make use of open-source, free, and public software and web tools to spread information through artistic expression.
- not be any more conscious of subculture or identity than any child or elderly person who is suddenly engulfed in the contemporary digital state of chaos without the context needed to navigate it.
- be forgotten and left behind (yet theoretically discoverable), not thrown into the abyss, but placed upon the graves and monuments of digital relics.
- perform a quiet digital coup, not an inorganic revolution, while utilizing the strategies of the online.
- embrace strategies such as entertainment, aesthetic, or pleasure.
- capture and cultivate a completely ironic and obscured movement, to reflect that of the internet and its power structures themselves.
- recognize artificial intelligence is its own system of consumption and use it sparingly, always with generous resentment.
- be the civil disobedience of the offensive and thoughtless use of tools—created by the most malicious entities in our society—to submit and promote the most genuine expressions of humanity and denounce this sea of contradiction.